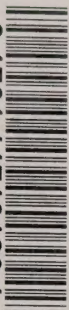


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M-02/83-16

February 11, 1983

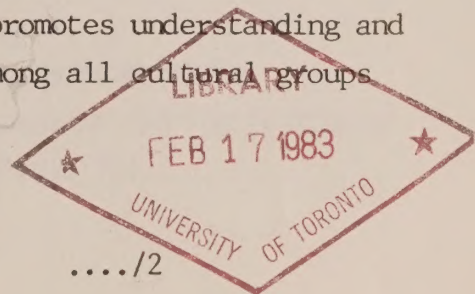
CANADIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL 1983 IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

ST. JOHN'S — The Government of Canada is contributing \$285,000 to the 1983 Canadian Heritage Festival to be held in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador from June 28 to July 13, 1983, the Minister of State for Multiculturalism Jim Fleming announced today. He made the announcement following the signature of an agreement with the Hon. Len Simms, Newfoundland Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

Under the sponsorship of Multiculturalism Canada, and this year in co-operation with the Government of Newfoundland, the Canadian Heritage Festival is an annual amateur arts event, which brings together representatives of the performing folkloric arts across Canada and contributes to their further development.

This year's Canadian Heritage Festival will take place concurrently with the 400th Anniversary celebrations of Newfoundland.

"I am pleased", said Mr. Fleming, "that the Canadian Heritage Festival, which has become an annual event of performing arts, has helped contribute to the integration of ethnocultural art forms into Canadian life. The festival promotes understanding and encourages cooperation and interchange among all cultural groups in Canada."

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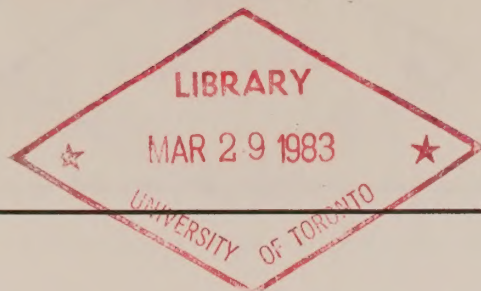
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The festival will be a province-wide event of approximately two weeks duration, where individuals from each province and territory will participate. The event will start on July 1, Canada Day in the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's and the grand finale will be staged at the Arts and Culture Centre in Corner Brook, where the "Hang-a-Shore" Folk Festival is taking place, on July 11.

"During the 1983 Canadian Heritage Festival", said Mr. Fleming, "representatives from various cultural backgrounds will be able to express their heritage through music, song and dance."

Information: Micheline Lafleur (819) 997-0055

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Communiqué

M-03/83-17

March 17, 1983

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MULTICULTURALISM
ANNOUNCES GRANT TO
CANADIAN FOLK ARTS COUNCIL

OTTAWA — The Honourable Jim Fleming, Minister of State for Multiculturalism, announced today a grant for the Canadian Folk Arts Council.

An amount of \$50,000 will go direct towards administrative, travel and accommodation expenses of the Fourth National Folk Arts Production Seminar known as Focus '83.

"Judging by the very favourable response to previous seminars organized and conducted by the National Folk Arts Council, we can expect to see very high calibre people in attendance at Focus '83 both as resource personnel and participants," said Mr. Fleming.

The three-day seminar, being held in Vancouver from April 9 to April 11, 1983, will emphasize skill development and the sharing of artistic experiences and common aspirations. Some of Canada's top authorities in the technical, dance, administration, choral and folk production disciplines will be on hand to conduct the various lectures and workshops.

More than 100 artistic directors, choreographers, producers and administrators from all ten provinces and the Northwest Territories will gather in Vancouver for Focus '83.

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Information: Bob Pruner
(819) 997-0055



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M-03/83-18

March 17, 1983

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MULTICULTURALISM
ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF PROGRAMS

EDMONTON - The federal government will more than double the funding of its multiculturalism programs over the next two years, Multiculturalism Minister Jim Fleming announced here today.

Mr. Fleming announced the federal cabinet has made available an additional \$7.5 million in fiscal 1983-84 above the existing \$8.5 million multiculturalism budget for grants and contributions. The extra funding will rise to \$9.9 million in 1984-85.

The increases, Mr. Fleming said, are an appropriate follow-through to enshrinement of multiculturalism in Canada's Charter of Rights and the expansion of the Multiculturalism Program to fulfill all components of its mandate. Cultural retention, overcoming barriers to full participation and increasing the dialogue with all Canadians give full expression to the Multiculturalism policy.

The increases take account of the inroads of inflation into the programs, while allowing for greater involvement in areas of current concern -- race relations, multiculturalism in education and immigrant women.

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HERITAGE LANGUAGE

As well, significantly increasing the budget for heritage language programs -- it will be almost trebled from \$1.5 million to \$4.26 million -- will make it possible to develop better teaching materials in the Canadian context, better training for teachers, and provide more adequate funding of the heritage language supplementary schools.

"At present," Mr. Fleming said, "because of a shortage of materials, it has often been necessary to employ materials from the country of origin, rather than in the Canadian context.

"Not only is it important that we back up our belief in the right of retention of our culture by giving access to young Canadians to their heritage languages -- but it is essential that we do it in a Canadian context. This new funding will better enable us to develop Canadian materials."

Mr. Fleming noted that the Cabinet decision reflects a Treasury Board determination that the formula system for funding heritage language classes will henceforth be protected from erosion by inflation.

INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Mr. Fleming said the extra funding voted by cabinet to intergroup relations will benefit multiculturalism programs in the fields of race relations, multiculturalism in education and assistance for immigrant women.

In race relations, the cabinet decision will provide more funding for the newly-established Race Relations Unit and will increase its capacity to support research in this area. The funds will make it possible to give greater support to those visible minorities communities that feel threatened. It will also assist in developing methods and programs to make existing institutions, such as police and social agencies, more sensitive to race relations problems.

In the field of multiculturalism and education, Mr. Fleming said, the budget supplement will allow for a major follow-through to the first national conference on Multiculturalism in Education, held in Winnipeg in 1981.

"Our objective," the Minister declared, "is to encourage teachers, educators, and those active in multiculturalism to work for a better reflection within Canada's education systems of the nature of the country. It will assist the work of encouraging all Canadians to understand and respect our cultural and racial differences."

This objective will be furthered by the production of curriculum materials, and in working with school trustees and faculties of education.

The extra budget will also ensure a continuing follow-through to the first national conference on immigrant women held in Toronto in 1981. The enhanced funding will provide support for a variety of immigrant women's groups across the country that have now begun to develop as a result of the conference. The Multiculturalism Directorate will be assisting some 40 groups in activities dealing with problems the conference identified.

CROSS-CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

A major thrust in multiculturalism funding recently has been to encourage inter-group activity. Mr. Fleming noted that one of the best methods developing in Canada to bring Canadians of different backgrounds together to work for cultural retention and better understanding is the multicultural centre. There are now more than 40 in existence.

The decision to provide extra funding for cross-cultural organizations means the government is responding to requests from ethnic groups to reconsider a sunset provision that terminated funds for multicultural centres after five years.

Mr. Fleming said that where such multicultural centres reflect his priorities and are genuine reflections of community concerns, "we now have the capacity to consider continuing the funding."

The minister emphasized that these funds will not only be used to assist established multicultural centres, but also to give further assistance to voluntary sector organizations that are working in the area of cross-cultural communications.

Further information: George Brimmell,
(613) 997-9900

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Communiqué

M-03/83-19

March 25, 1983

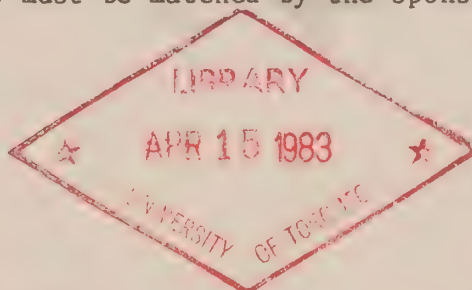
Chair in Gaelic Studies Announced

ANTIGONISH, N.S. -- The Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, Hon. Allan J. MacEachen, and the Hon. Jim Fleming, Minister of State for Multiculturalism, announced here today, that a Chair in Gaelic Studies will be established at St. Francis Xavier University.

The chair is being established as a result of a \$300,000 grant from the Endowment Assistance Program of Multiculturalism Canada. This is the fifth chair to be funded under the program.

The grant from the Government of Canada matches a similar sum raised by the Antigonish Highland Society. The \$600,000 will be placed in an endowment trust account and the income earned will enable St. Francis Xavier University to hire a full-time professor of Gaelic Studies.

The Endowment Assistance Program makes contributions available to promote the establishment at Canadian universities of chairs of studies in the fields of humanities, social sciences, communications and fine arts relating to Canadian ethnocultural groups. Such contributions must be matched by the sponsoring voluntary organization.

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Chairs already funded under the Multiculturalism Endowment Assistance Program are:

Chair in Hungarian Studies - University of Toronto;
Chair in Mennonite Studies - University of Winnipeg;
Chair in Ukrainian Studies - University of Toronto;
Chair in Acadian Studies - University of Moncton.

Information: Gérard Gagné (819) 997-0055

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M-08/84-17

CONTRIBUTION OF \$100,000 FOR
CREATION OF "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN" HISTORICAL SITE

An advisory committee involving the Black Community and members of Josiah Henson's family will be established in support of this project which is being administered by the Corporation of the County of Kent. The Kent County initiative would have been unable to proceed at this time without the support of Multiculturalism Canada.



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"We are very pleased to be able to ensure that this project will go forward," said Mr. Collenette. "The Josiah Henson estate has important historical links not only for Canada's Black Community but also because it represents tangible evidence of our commitment as a federal government and as Canadians to justice and equal opportunity. It is a landmark to all who have sought refuge and made this country their home."

The proposed historical site, which consists of six heritage buildings and two cemeteries, is located two kilometers west of Dresden, Ontario.

Information: Bob Pruner (819) 997-0055

